

Week" and later as "Black History Month." In fact, black history had barely begun to be studied—or even documented—when the tradition originated. Although blacks have been in America as far back as colonial times, it was not until the 20th century that they gained a presence in our history books.

Though scarcely documented in history books, if at all, the crucial role African Americans have played in the development of our nation must not be overlooked.

I would like to recognize Reverend Victor Dixon of Covich County in the State of Mississippi. Born September 27, 1957, Dixon was educated in the Covich County School District.

Rev. Dixon is the pastor of the Egypt Hill M.B. Church, where he has been pastor for twelve years. Presently he serves as Moderator of the Brushy Creek-New Hope Association. He is the President of the Covich County Minister Alliances, Executive Board Member for the Covich County Fair Association and Board Member for the Covich County Boys and Girls Club. Additionally, Rev. Dixon is the owner and President of Dixon Body & Auto Sales, Inc.

Previously, Rev. Dixon ministered at Greater Mt. Olive M.B. Church of Oma, Mississippi for 8 years. Rev. Dixon served also served as the Vice-Moderator of Lawrence County Association for four years and Vice-Moderator of the Brushy Creek-New Hope Association for 10 years.

I take great pride in recognizing and paying tribute to this outstanding African American of the 2nd Congressional District of Mississippi who deserves mention, not only in the month of February but year round.

IN HONOR OF STEPHEN R. GREGG

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 16, 2005

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Stephen R. Gregg, a distinguished Congressional Medal of Honor winner whose life was devoted to serving the community and his country. Mr. Gregg was remembered at a memorial service on February 11, 2005, in Bayonne, New Jersey.

A decorated veteran of World War II, Mr. Gregg began his army service in 1942 and joined the Weapons Platoon, Company L, 143rd Infantry, 36th Infantry Division. After training in Algeria, his unit was sent to Italy, where he suffered shrapnel injuries to his back and leg. During a battle in France, Mr. Gregg, then a technical sergeant, single-handedly slowed the advance of German soldiers. This enabled medics to recover and treat seven wounded soldiers from his platoon. His valiant counterattack also allowed the platoon to successfully reposition itself and continue fighting. Mr. Gregg's bravery, quick thinking, and combat instincts helped save the lives of many fellow soldiers that day and earned him the Congressional Medal of Honor. He was also promoted to second lieutenant and awarded a Purple Heart, Combat Infantryman's Badge, Oak Leaf Cluster, and the Silver Star.

Respected and admired by the community, Mr. Gregg was frequently asked to appear at presidential inaugurations, remembrance events, and on TV shows. For 25 years, he at-

tended Hudson County's ceremonies to honor the fallen at Pearl Harbor. Known by his family and friends for his great humility, Mr. Gregg rarely spoke of his combat experiences at home and said a nightly prayer for his fallen comrades who did not survive the war.

Raised in Bayonne, he attended the Bayonne Technical and Vocational High School and later spent time working at an art gallery in New York and the shipyards in Kearny, before serving in the Armed Forces. After being discharged from the Army, he worked as a deputy Hudson County court clerk and a county court attendant. He later became the Sheriff Department's chief court officer.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Stephen R. Gregg, a man of exceptional character, whose dedicated service and humble nature won him the respect and love of all who knew him. Mr. Gregg was an important figure in the community's military history, and he will be greatly missed.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 16, 2005

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to attend several votes late last week due to personal business, and I ask unanimous consent to include this personal explanation in the record.

On February 10, 2005, I was unable to be present for Rollcall votes #28–#31.

On Rollcall vote #28 on agreeing to the Nadler of New York amendment to H.R. 418, I would have voted "nay."

On Rollcall vote #29 on agreeing to the Farr of California amendment to H.R. 418, I would have voted "yea."

On Rollcall vote #30 on the Motion to Re-commit H.R. 418 with Instructions, I would have voted "yea."

On Rollcall vote #31 on final passage of H.R. 418, the REAL ID Act, I would have voted "nay."

DR. CARL KUTTTLER, JR. DAY IN
ST. PETERSBURG, FLORIDA

HON. C. W. BILL YOUNG

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 16, 2005

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Mr. Speaker, every once in a while you have the opportunity to work with an individual who touches a community in a special way. For me, that person is Dr. Carl Kuttler, Jr., the President of the St. Petersburg College in St. Petersburg, Florida.

As President of the College for the past 26 years, Carl has touched the lives of thousands of students. He has made college an option for many students who otherwise due to cost or scheduling conflicts would not have been able to attend. He also has responded to the needs of our community by creating programs of study to fulfill labor demands, such as qualified teachers, nurses, pharmacists, law enforcement personnel, and most recently specialists in the field of orthotics and prosthetics.

Carl is one of those public servants who lead by example and with vision and commit-

ment. He has been such a strong and consistent force for change in our community that the St. Petersburg City Council recently honored him by declaring January 31, 2005 as Dr. Carl Kuttler Jr. Day.

Following my remarks, I would ask that the city's resolution be included so that my colleagues in the House can see what a dynamic leader Carl Kuttler is. He is an example for all public officials and college Presidents to follow in leading with a creative energy that not only enhances the quality of education but the quality of life for an entire community.

Mr. Speaker, Dr. Carl Kuttler Jr. is a unique individual, a man with more energy and ideas than any person I know. It is an honor to share his story with you today.

Whereas, Dr. Carl Kuttler is a long time St. Petersburg citizen and has led St. Petersburg College for 26 years as President; and

Whereas, Recently Dr. Kuttler has helped St. Petersburg College evolve into a four-year school, offering baccalaureate degrees, the first community college in Florida to be given such a privilege; and

Whereas, Dr. Kuttler has been an advocate for Community Colleges everywhere; and

Whereas, Dr. Kuttler has worked with the City of St. Petersburg to develop a joint use library at Gibbs High School, the largest public library in the city; and

Whereas, Dr. Kuttler agreed to oversee the 300–100 year anniversary celebration between St. Petersburg, Russia and St. Petersburg, Florida, culminating with the two cities signing a twin city agreement; and

Whereas, Dr. Kuttler has led efforts to establish St. Petersburg College campuses in Midtown and Downtown St. Petersburg; and

Whereas, January 31, 2005 is Dr. Kuttler's 65th birthday.

Now, therefore, I, Rick Baker, Mayor of the City of St. Petersburg, Florida, proclaim January 31, 2005 as Dr. Carl Kuttler Jr. Day in St. Petersburg, and I urge residents to join with me in recognizing the great and proactive impact he is making on our community.

HONORING THE LIFE OF GREEN-
WOOD COUNTY SHERIFF MATT
SAMUELS

HON. JERRY MORAN

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 16, 2005

Mr. MORAN of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, Congressman TIAHRT and I join together today to honor the life of fallen Greenwood County Sheriff Matt Samuels. On Wednesday, January 19, Sheriff Matt Samuels was shot while serving a search warrant and an arrest warrant near Virgil, Kansas. He died in the line of duty while serving his community.

Protecting and serving was in Matt's nature. His father had served as county sheriff before him, so he grew up around the principles of law and justice. As a second-generation sheriff, Matt took service beyond just his job. He was seen as a leader, involved in the Special Olympics and serving as President of the local Kiwanis Club.

Sheriff Samuels was devoted to law enforcement, but more than that, he was devoted to the people of Greenwood County. While still in high school, Samuels began working as a part-time jailer. After graduation, he married Tamara Bechtel, then attended the